

Beginner's Guide

Flyball

What Is Flyball?

Flyball is a fast dog sport consisting of two teams of four dogs (plus two reserve) which race against each other over identical courses. Each dog has to jump four jumps in a row and then trigger the box that releases a tennis ball. The dog then has to return over the four jumps, carrying the ball. When the first dog's nose has crossed the start/finish line, the next dog can go.

There are two different forms of Flyball: Crufts Flyball and British Flyball Association (BFA) Flyball.

A Suitable Dog

Any dog, any size, any breed that will play with a tennis ball and do a play retrieve can play flyball. All compete over the same course. For competition the dog must be over 18 months, but depending on the breed and build training can begin much earlier.



Join A Club

Many clubs will insist that you have some basic obedience training before you can do Flyball. One very important item is socialisation. The dogs in a team must get along with one other as they will be required to pass each other closely while running at full speed. Try to find a club which competes in the Crufts Flyball competitions.

Basic Training

If possible go and watch a Flyball competition in order to see what to expect. However you must remember that only entered dogs are allowed at these shows. There are eight Crufts qualifiers for adult club teams that are all held at Agility Shows. Most, but not all of the YKC Crufts Flyball Qualifiers are held at the same shows. You will need to check the list of qualifiers in the Programme of YKC Classes and Activities.

Types Of Show

In addition to the Crufts qualifiers there are other pure Flyball Shows. Held under the rules of the BFA, the rules for competition are similar but the BFA use a different, much faster box.

The Kennel Club rules of Flyball can be found at H and H2 in the Kennel Club Year Book.



Checklist for your first show

- A good pair of trainers with reasonable grip on grass
- Ring card and running order if sent beforehand
- Schedule
- Suitable clothing according to weather
- Reflective cover to put on the car window if the weather is hot
- Collars. All competing dogs must wear a smooth buckled collar, or a close fitting harness



Further information

For further information please contact the YKC office at ykc@the-kennel-club.org.uk or visit the Kennel Club website www.the-kennel-club.org.uk

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